

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 04153 110151Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SS-15 L-03 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 H-02 SCA-01

DEAE-00 /052 W

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R 101135Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4329

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, SOPN, LA

SUBJ: PRESS STORY RE AMERICAN WOMAN PRISONER

REF: A) STATE 133757; B) VIENTIANE 4132

1. THE JUNE 10 EDITION OF XAT LAO CARRIES AN ARTICLE WHICH ASSERTS THAT, "ACCORDING TO A MILITARY SOURCE AT WATTAY AIRPORT," CERTAIN UNNAMED RLAF "REACTIONNARIES" HAD PLANNED PREVIOUSLY TO FLEE FROM LAOS USING T-28S STATIONED AT WATTAY BUT THEIR PLAN HAD FAILED. MOREOVER THE MIXED POLICE WERE ABLE TO ARREST A "CIA AGENT," MISS ROSEMARY ANN CONWAY, AT THE SAYA HOTEL IN VIENTIANE ON JUNE 4 WHO IS BEING QUESTIONED AT THE PRESENT TIME.

2. AFTER CONSUL CAYER'S UNPLEASANT RUN-IN WITH POLICE AUTHORITIES, JUNE 9, REPORTED REFTTEL B, EMBASSY PREPARED FOLLOWING DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY: BEGIN TEXT

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION OF LAOS AND HAS THE HONOR OF BRINGING TO THE MINISTRY'S ATTENTION THE CASE OF MRS. ROSEMARY CONWAY, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, AT  
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 04153 110151Z

PRESENT BEING DETAINED AT THE JOINT POLICE HEADQUARTERS

AT VIENTIANE. MRS. CONWAY WAS APPARENTLY TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AT THE SAYA HOTEL IN VIENTIANE ON JUNE 4, 1975. THE EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF ANY CHARGES HAVING BEEN FILED AGAINST MRS. CONWAY.

MRS. CONWAY WAS VISITED ON JUNE 9 BY THE UNITED STATES CONSUL AND FOUND TO BE IN A DETERIORATING PHYSICAL STATE AND ACTING IN A DISTURBED MANNER. SHE APPEARED TO BE IN URGENT NEED OF MEDICAL ATTENTION. HOWEVER, THE PRISON AUTHORITIES, WHO WERE QUITE DISCOURTEOUS, CUT THE CONSUL'S VISIT OFF AFTER ONLY FIVE MINUTES.

THE EMBASSY REQUESTS, THEREFORE, THAT THE MINISTRY INFORM IT OF THE CHARGES IF ANY UNDER WHICH MRS. CONWAY IS BEING HELD AND THAT THE MINISTRY INSTRUCT THE JOINT POLICE TO GRANT THE CONSUL THE NORMAL ACCESS ALLOWED CONSULS TO CITIZENS OF THEIR COUNTRY HELD IN DETENTION. THE EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE IT IF ITS DOCTOR COULD VISIT HER. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING) END TEXT.

3. NOTE WAS HAND-CARRIED JUNE 10 TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND DELIVERED TO ACTING PROTOCOL CHIEF BY EMBOFF. EMBOFF STRESSED THAT NOTE DEALT WITH URGENT MATTER THAT SHOULD BE ACTED UPON IMMEDIATELY GIVEN DELICATE STATE OF MS. CONWAY'S HEALTH; HE REQUESTED THAT HE AND AN AMERICAN EMBASSY DOCTOR BE PERMITTED TO CALL ON MS. CONWAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE ALSO SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT A FOREIGN MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE ACCOMPANY HIM AND THE DOCTOR TO THE DETENTION CENTER.

4. EMBOFF STRESSED THAT ACTING PROTOCOL DIRECTOR SHOULD NOT BELIEVE XAT LAO ALLEGATIONS CITED ABOVE. HE SUGGESTED THAT, IN BEST INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED, MS. CONWAY SHOULD BE RELEASED FROM JAIL AND ALLOWED TO LEAVE LAOS AND SEEK MEDICAL TREATMENT ABROAD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. ACTING PROTOCOL DIRECTOR SAID HE HAD MET MS. CONWAY AND HAD FOUND HER UNBALANCED ("DETRAQUEE"). HE THEN LEFT TO SEE MINFORNAFF'S CHEF DE CABINET, SOUBANH SRITHIRATH, WHO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 VIENTI 04153 110151Z

AGREED TO DISCUSS CASE WITH MIXED POLICE AND ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER SOUK VONGSAK.

COMMENT: WHILE MS. CONWAY'S "CONNECTIONS" WITH CIA ARE OF COURSE LUDICROUS, SHE IS UNFORTUNATELY KNOWN TO HAVE FREQUENTED LAO T-28 PILOTS. SHE EVEN ASKED EMBOFF RECENTLY WHETHER HE COULD PROVIDE HER MONEY TO HELP SOME PILOTS TO ESCAPE FROM LAOS. (EMBOFF TURNED HER DOWN.) SHE ALSO

MENTIONED HAVING REPORTED TO OUR FORMER NARCOTICS ATTACHE  
IN THE PAST ABOUT A SUSPECTED DRUG TRAFFICKER ATTACHED TO  
THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL STAFF.  
CHAPMAN

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